

The claims have been amended to overcome the objection to Claims 2 and 25 and the rejections under 35 USC 112 of Claims 31 and 20. Accordingly, these grounds of objection and rejection should be withdrawn.

Claim 23 has been canceled. Accordingly, the double patenting rejection based on Claims 22 and 23 should be withdrawn.

Claims 3, 4, 6, 9, 10 and 17 have been rejected under 35 USC 102 over Pall ('545), Pall discloses a process for filtering a fluid sequentially through a filter having a positive Zeta Potential and then through a filter having a negative Zeta Potential. Thus, Pall ('545) directly teaches away from applicants' invention and this ground of rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 3, 4, 6, 9, 10 and 17 have been rejected under 35 USC 103 over Pall ('545) in view of Pall ('124). Pall ('545) is discussed above. Pall ('124) discloses polymer filters having a positive gets a potential in both acid and alkaline needs (Col. 12, lines 1-18 and lines 58-68). Accordingly, both Pall ('545), Pall ('124) teaches directly away from applicants' invention and this ground of rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 14, 15 and 29 have been rejected under 35 USC 103 over Pall ('545) in view of Mayhan. Pall ('545) is discussed above. Mayhan teaches grafting modification of a filter surface and does not teach the importance of matching a filter surface with a fluid so that the filter surface has a substantially neutral charge. Accordingly, Mayhan does not supply the deficiencies of Pall ('545) and this ground of rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 16 and 18 have been rejected under 35 USC 103 over Pall ('545) in view of McRay. Pall ('545) is discussed above. McRay discloses the use of caramies and metals as filter material and does not teach the importance of matching a filter surface with a fluid so that the filter surface has a substantially neutral charge. Accordingly, McRay does not supply the deficiencies of Pall ('545) and this ground of rejection should be withdrawn.

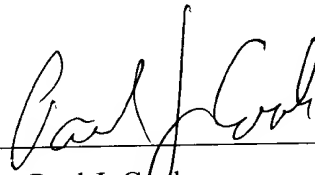
Claims 27, 28 and 29 have been rejected under 35 USC 103 over Pall ('545) in view of Alder ('612). Pall ('545) is discussed above. Alder discloses

cross-linking reaction for friction surfaces and does not teach the importance of matching a filter surface with a fluid so that the filter surface has a substantially neutral charge. Accordingly, Alder does not supply the deficiencies of Pall ('545) and this ground of rejection should be withdrawn.

In view of the above, it is submitted that applicants' claims define patentable subject matter and an early Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Paul J. Cook", written over a horizontal line.

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